Agricultural land affected by floods and cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

@3431. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the average agriculture land in Andhra Pradesh affected by floods and cyclone every year since 1986 and average loss suffered as a result thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SHAHI): The average agricultural land affected by floods and cyclones and the average loss suffered as a result thereof since 1986 works out to about 5,82,000 hectares and Rs. 200 crores respectively.

Nation-wide raids on the Offices of the Indian Express Daily

@@3432. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council of India had sought details of the Government's nation-wide raids on offices of the Indian Express daily vide its letter dated September 3, 1987;

(b) whether Government have responded to the request of the Press Council of India; and

(c) if so, when and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It was not considered appropriate to disclose the details of the searches as sought for by the Council.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2563 transferred from the 17th March, 1989.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2654, transferred from the 17th March, 1989.

Refusal of permission to All India SC Development Cooperative Society, Karnataka of Flowers and Vegetables

$3433. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the project concerning the trade of flowers and vegetables on cent per cent export basis of All India Schedule Caste Development Cooperative Society, Karnataka is pending for necessary approval;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the project has been given approval at the Industrial level by National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD); and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for delay in granting permission to the concerned remaining approvals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ($HRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that one hundred per cent Export Oriented Flowers and Vegetables Project was received by them in May 1988 from Canara Bank. The proposal was appraised by an Expert Committee which came to the conclusion that the project was not financially viable.

Revival of India Machinery Company Limited, Howrah

3434. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for revival of the India Machinery Company Limited, Dasnagar, Howrah in West Bengal; and

$Previously Unstarred Question 2784, transferred from the 17th March, 1989.

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to revive the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) and (b) The case of India Machinery Company is registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which is a quasi-judicial body and takes decisions in accordance with the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Bank loans for commercial vehicles

3435. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the terms and conditions for securing loans from the nationalised banks in Delhi for purchasing commercial vehicles like matador etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rules governing the grant of such loans are very harsh and the banks ask the applicants to mortgage their immovable properties where as there is a ban by Government on the execution of these registries in Delhi if so, what action Government propose to take to ease their terms and conditions in order to avoid hardships to the applicants; and

(c) what is the number of applications received in this regard by the Punjab National Bank, Connaught Place Branch, Central Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch, State Bank of India, Parliament Street and Connaught Circus Branches and Bank of Baroda, Connaught Place Branch and how many applications out of above have been rejected by the above mentioned banks and what are the grounds of the rejection of the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) & (b) As per Reserve Bank of India's guidelines, advances upto two vehicles are provided to small road transport operators at a concessional rate of interest of 12.5 per cent per annum. The terms relating to margin and security are also comparatively softer for these borrowers. These terms and conditions which are uniform throughout the country are as under:—

(i) *Margin*:—For credit limits upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000 no margin is required. A margin of 15 to 25 per cent has been prescribed for credit limits exceeding Rs. 25,000.

(ii) *Security norms*:—For credit limits upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000 hypothecation of assets created out of loan (i.e. vehicle) is sufficient. Banks have been advised not to ask for collateral security/third party guarantee of Rs. 25,000. For credit limits in excess of Rs. 25,000 banks have to determine security on the merits of each case. Proposals otherwise viable are not to be turned down by banks merely for want of collateral security or third party guarantee. If mortgage is necessary, an equitable mortgage instead of registered mortgage will suffice wherever possible.

(c) Punjab National Bank has reported that it had received seven applications for vehicle loans during the year 1988 in various branches of the bank in Connaught Place. All these applications were sanctioned loans and no proposal was rejected during the year.

Central Bank of India has reported that it had sanctioned loans to 14 eligible borrowers for purchase of transport vehicles during the period from September, 1985 to December, 1988. No application has been rejected by its Parliament Street Branch.

State Bank of India has reported that no applications were received at Parliament Street and Connaught Circus Branches of the bank for transport finance and there were no cases of rejection.